

Remarks

This Preliminary Amendment cancels without prejudice original claims 1 to 38 in the parent patent applications, and adds new claims 39 to 100, so that only new claims 39 to 100 are now pending. It is noted that independent claims 39, 60 and 81 include features like those of the claims allowed in the parent case (for which the issue fee and formal drawings are being submitted in the parent case) and of the original parent case, namely issued U.S. Patent No. 6,293,584.

The new and/or substitute formal Figures do not add any new matter and are supported in the present application, and conform the Figures to those accepted in the parent applications. Approval is respectfully requested.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.125, the Substitute Specification (including the Abstract, but without the claims) contains no new matter. The amendments reflected in the Substitute Specification (including Abstract) are made, in part, to conform the Specification and Abstract to amendments made and entered in the parent application, which has been allowed. As required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.121 and § 1.125, a Marked Up Version Of The Substitute Specification comparing the Specification of record and the Substitute Specification also accompanies this Preliminary Amendment. In the Marked Up Version, shading indicates added text, and "strike-throughs" and double brackets indicated deleted text. Approval and entry of the Substitute Specification (including Abstract) is respectfully requested.

Applicant asserts that the subject matter of the present application is new, non-obvious, and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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IN THE DRAWINGS:

Without prejudice, please enter and substitute the accompanying Replacement Sheets of Figures 1A, 1B, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7A, 7B and 8 (which have been approved and accepted in the parent case) for replacing originally filed informal Figures 1 to 8.